

Mineral Industry Surveys

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ALUMINUM IN NOVEMBER 2005

Domestic primary aluminum production in November was 204,037 metric tons (t), according to the U.S. Geological Survey. The average daily production rate was 6,801 t, about 2% higher than that of the previous month but 1% below the rate for November 2004. The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased to 96.31 cents per pound in November from 91.38 cents per pound in October, according to Platts Metals Week. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum used beverage cans (UBCs) also increased during November. On November 1, the price range increased to 63–65 cents per pound from 62–64 cents per pound at the end of October. On November 8, the price range increased another penny to 64–66 cents per pound. On

November 22, the price range increased to 66–68 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the month.

Update

The monthly average U.S. market price of primary aluminum ingot increased in December to \$1.061 per pound, the first time the monthly average has exceeded \$1.00 per pound since January 1989. The American Metal Market buying price range for aluminum UBCs also increased during December. On December 6, the price range increased to 70–72 cents per pound. On December 13, the price range increased again to 74–76 cents per pound and remained at this level through the end of the year.

TABLE 1
COMPONENTS OF ALUMINUM SUPPLY¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Primary production	Secondary recovery ²			Imports for consumption			Total new supply ³	Total stocks, end of period ⁴
		New	Old	Total	Metals and alloys, crude	Plates, sheets, bars, etc.	Total		
2004	2,516	1,870	1,160	3,030	3,250	938	4,180	9,730	1,470
2004:									
November	207	149	103	252	272	84	356	815	1,420
December	211	138	94	231	294	82	377	819	1,470
January-November	2,305	1,690	1,100	2,790	2,950	856	3,810	8,900	1,420
2005:									
January	209	163	95	258	334	90	425	892	1,510
February	191	157	91	248	289	97	386	825	1,450
March	214	171	96	267	262	105	367	847	1,480
April	211	162	95	257	372	104	476	943	1,500
May	214	159	98	257	372	104	476	947	1,520
June	206	153	96	249	324	107	431	886	1,500
July	210	170	96	267	324	104	428	904	1,550
August	208	167	96	262	264	110	374	845	1,510
September	199	157	91	248	282	97	379	827	1,590
October	207	151	95	246	298	94	393	846	1,550
November	204	151	84	236	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
January-November	2,273	1,760	1,030	2,800	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA

NA Not available.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except "Primary production"; may not add to totals shown.

²Metallic recovery from purchased, tolled, or imported scrap, expanded for full coverage of industry.

³Primary production, secondary recovery, and imports for consumption.

⁴Inventory levels reflect total for both U.S. and Canadian producers; data from the Aluminum Association Inc.

TABLE 2
ESTIMATED FULL COVERAGE CONSUMPTION OF AND METALLIC RECOVERY FROM
PURCHASED NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP¹

(Thousand metric tons)

Period	Secondary smelters		Integrated aluminum companies		Independent mill fabricators		Foundries		Other consumers		Total	
	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery	Con- sump- tion	Metal recovery
2004	1,800	1,330	754	668	994	929	101	90	9	8	3,650	3,030
2004:												
November	145	107	64	56	87	81	9	8	(2)	(2)	305	252
December	132	97	61	54	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	279	231
January-November	1,550	1,140	693	614	1,000	937	101	90	5	5	3,350	2,790
2005:												
January	147	106	64	57	93	87	9	8	(2)	(2)	313	258
February	146	105	63	56	84	79	8	7	1	1	301	248
March	150	108	67	60	97	91	8	7	1	1	323	267
April	146	106	66	59	90	84	8	7	1	1	311	257
May	151	109	69	61	85	80	8	7	1	1	313	257
June	138	103	67	60	84	79	9	8	1	1	299	249
July	141	102	92	83	79	74	8	7	1	1	321	267
August	151	109	77	69	82	77	8	7	(2)	(2)	319	262
September	148	107	65	58	80	75	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	248
October	154	112	55	49	83	78	8	7	(2)	(2)	302	246
November	138	101	62	55	77	72	8	7	(2)	(2)	285	236
January-November	1,610	1,170	747	667	934	876	90	79	6	6	3,390	2,800

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

TABLE 3
CONSUMPTION OF AND RECOVERY FROM PURCHASED
NEW AND OLD ALUMINUM SCRAP IN NOVEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	Consumption		Calculated metallic recovery	
	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage	Tabulated reports	Estimated full coverage
Secondary smelters	115,000	138,000	84,300	101,000
Integrated aluminum companies	62,300	62,300	55,400	55,400
Independent mill fabricators	63,800	76,500	59,700	71,600
Foundries	6,680	8,020	5,880	7,060
Other consumers	355	426	355	426
Total	248,000	285,000	206,000	236,000

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4
PURCHASED AND TOLL-TREATED ALUMINUM-BASE SCRAP AND SWEATED PIG IN NOVEMBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

	November				January-November ²	
	Stocks, opening	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed	Stocks, closing	Net receipts ³	Melted or consumed
New scrap:						
Extrusion	24,700	62,900	64,000	23,600	685,000	689,000
Can stock clippings	820	17,200	17,000	1,030	272,000	274,000
Other wrought sheet/clippings	7,770 ^r	24,900	24,900	7,810	263,000	264,000
Casting	1,510 ^r	7,910	8,000	1,420	90,200	90,000
Borings and turnings	7,430 ^r	12,200	11,900	7,740	146,000	142,000
Dross and skimmings	4,290 ^r	34,200	34,100	4,370	413,000	413,000
Total new scrap	46,600 ^r	159,000	160,000	46,000	1,870,000	1,870,000
Old scrap:						
Used castings	5,210 ^r	13,500	13,200	5,430	131,000	130,000
Used Extrusion	137	295	295	137	3,240	3,240
Used cans (shredded, loose, baled)	1,810 ^r	55,400	55,500	1,740	671,000	674,000
Other wrought products	4,080 ^r	6,510	6,510	4,080	142,000	142,000
Fragmentized shredder (auto shredder)	2,980 ^r	11,600	11,800	2,840	120,000	119,000
Total old scrap	14,200 ^r	87,300	87,300	14,200	1,070,000	1,070,000
Sweated pig	290	761	736	316	8,040	8,320
Total all classes	61,000 ^r	247,000	248,000	60,500	2,950,000	2,950,000

^rRevised.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes revised data from previous month(s).

³Includes data on imported aluminum-base scrap.

TABLE 5
ALUMINUM ALLOYS PRODUCED AT SECONDARY SMELTERS IN THE UNITED STATES FOR 2005^{1,2}

(Metric tons)

	November				January-November ³	
	Stocks, opening	Production	Net shipments	Stocks, closing	Production	Net shipments
Die-cast alloys:						
13% Si, 360, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	5,440 [†]	1,180	1,360	5,270	17,700	15,300
380 and variations	3,050	14,600	15,300	2,340	183,000	185,000
Sand and permanent mold:						
95/5 Al-Si, 356, etc. (0.6% Cu, max.)	958	1,930	1,870	1,020	20,400	20,500
No. 319 and variations	2,950	6,190	6,110	3,030	72,000	71,500
F-132 alloy and variations	773	1,760	1,660	872	20,600	20,600
Al-Zn alloys	114	152	169	98	1,800	1,840
Al-Si alloys (0.6% to 2.0% Cu)	39	46	46	39	504	504
Al-Cu alloys (1.5% Si, max.)	45	325	325	45	3,580	3,580
Other ⁴	5,610 [†]	4,650	5,150	5,110	64,400	65,700
Wrought alloys:						
Extrusion billets	10,900	23,300	23,900	10,300	269,000	270,000
Total all alloys	29,900 [†]	54,100	55,900	28,100	654,000	655,000
Less:						
Primary aluminum consumed	XX	19,800	XX	XX	143,000	XX
Primary silicon consumed	XX	2,190	XX	XX	24,600	XX
Other alloying ingredients consumed	XX	715	XX	XX	7,440	XX
Net metallic recovery from aluminum scrap and sweated pig consumed in production of secondary aluminum ingot ⁵	XX	31,400	XX	XX	478,000	XX

[†]Revised. XX Not applicable.

¹Excludes integrated aluminum companies.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Includes revised data from previous months.

⁴Includes alloys No. 12, Al-Mg, Al-Si-Cu-Ni, aluminum-base hardeners, variations of these alloys, plus other aluminum alloys.

⁵No allowance made for melt-loss of primary aluminum and alloying ingredients.

TABLE 6
U.S. IMPORTS FOR CONSUMPTION OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October
Argentina	11,000	59,400	2	2,970	--	--	11,000	62,400
Australia	4,880	56,000	1	106	--	1,210	4,880	57,300
Bahrain	4,880	14,600	1,310	13,000	--	--	6,190	27,600
Belgium	--	18	756	11,300	--	28	756	11,300
Brazil	8,250	147,000	3,490	30,700	--	126	11,700	177,000
Canada	165,000	1,610,000	43,200	434,000	27,600	258,000	236,000	2,300,000
China	842	62,700	10,200	102,000	121	247	11,200	165,000
France	54	709	344	5,650	--	55	398	6,410
Germany	93	1,920	7,750	94,400	--	274	7,840	96,600
Hungary	--	--	560	3,710	--	--	560	3,710
Italy	--	610	215	2,390	--	--	215	3,000
Japan	37	515	2,130	16,800	47	445	2,210	17,800
Korea, Republic of	7	82	166	2,420	--	--	173	2,500
Mexico	--	--	1,830	18,700	7,530	90,100	9,360	109,000
Netherlands	36	368	239	2,360	--	--	275	2,730
Norway	--	4,060	1	107	--	2	1	4,170
Russia	37,300	720,000	2,540	49,100	1,270	6,590	41,100	775,000
South Africa	10,300	69,700	4,860	42,900	--	--	15,200	113,000
Spain	8	45	274	2,850	--	106	282	3,000
Sweden	--	1,310	341	3,120	--	--	341	4,420
Switzerland	18	720	388	3,560	--	--	405	4,280
Tajikistan	30,100	127,000	--	--	--	--	30,100	127,000
United Arab Emirates	6,450	61,300	87	366	52	718	6,590	62,400
United Kingdom	2,130	22,300	600	6,320	95	1,780	2,820	30,400
Venezuela	11,200	124,000	483	9,670	254	8,320	12,000	142,000
Other	4,980	41,200	12,700	153,000	2,420	38,800	20,100	233,000
Total	298,000	3,120,000	94,500	1,010,000	39,400	407,000	432,000	4,540,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 7
U.S. EXPORTS OF ALUMINUM IN OCTOBER 2005¹

(Metric tons)

Country or territory	Metals and alloys, crude		Plates, sheets, bars, etc.		Scrap		Total	
	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October	October	January- October
Australia	35	456	103	1,320	--	23	138	1,800
Azerbaijan	--	--	--	2	--	--	--	2
Belgium	14	602	823	6,810	--	214	837	7,620
Brazil	17	205	705	7,120	--	1,500	722	8,830
Canada	11,800	107,000	42,300	414,000	12,700	124,000	66,900	645,000
China	23	401	4,380	33,900	59,900	466,000	64,300	501,000
Czech Republic	--	--	6	242	--	--	6	242
Dominican Republic	1	15	80	433	--	--	81	448
France	--	838	899	7,260	--	48	899	8,150
Germany	69	747	693	7,070	32	306	794	8,120
Hong Kong	4	211	680	5,950	866	8,850	1,550	15,000
India	11	169	82	474	539	8,060	632	8,710
Israel	--	549	200	2,360	--	--	200	2,910
Italy	(2)	175	289	2,570	--	--	289	2,750
Japan	403	3,900	1,110	8,460	2,910	27,800	4,420	40,100
Korea, Republic of	31	859	978	11,000	11,700	107,000	12,700	119,000
Malaysia	8	32	268	5,640	668	776	945	6,440
Mexico	16,500	154,000	22,000	189,000	7,640	58,300	46,100	401,000
Netherlands	3	113	178	586	--	39	181	738
Russia	95	154	6	44	(2)	26	102	224
Saudi Arabia	--	8	2,490	25,300	--	--	2,490	25,300
Singapore	22	341	168	1,970	--	552	190	2,860
Spain	8	66	187	1,030	--	196	195	1,290
Sweden	--	9	46	354	--	--	46	363
Taiwan	67	311	1,270	8,010	4,030	42,100	5,360	50,400
Thailand	18	360	608	6,440	192	4,930	818	11,700
Ukraine	--	--	--	1	--	--	--	1
United Kingdom	11	275	1,770	13,800	89	314	1,870	14,400
Venezuela	--	12	210	1,570	--	21	210	1,600
Other	327	3,730	2,760	31,000	1,720	32,300	4,800	67,000
Total	29,500	275,000	85,300	794,000	103,000	884,000	218,000	1,950,000

-- Zero.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Less than ½ unit.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau.